

as steadily as their fighting British comrades, captured the fortified town of Voormezele and the lines to the north of it. The division was then moved out of Belgium into the trenches around Bellicourt France. There it was prepared to take part in an attack on the most famous of the German lines of defense - the Hindenburg Line. This strong line, the last great line between our troops and Germany, was really three lines. The front of each of these lines was protected by vast fields of barbed wire fences and entanglements. Before they could get to the trenches, our soldiers had, of course, to cut their way through this wire. The high ground behind the trenches was dotted with machine-guns that were often covered with cement houses, called pill-boxes. Deep dugouts, some of them thirty feet deep, protected the Germans from cannon fire. A tunnel of the Saint Quentin Canal formed a part of the third line of defenses in front of our soldiers. This deep cut, filled with soldiers, was connected with the trenches by underground roads. There was not a foot of ground in front of these strong works but that was swept by German guns. It seemed almost like madness to rush men into this fire of death. The Germans thought that no troops could break through these trenches.

At daylight on September 29, 1918, the American troops, who in the darkness had swarmed out of their own trenches, and stood now on what they called the "jumping off tape," rushed against those tangled wires. The attack of the Thirtieth Division was led by the Sixtieth Brigade. They were met by cannon fire of every kind, by showers of bullets from barking machine-guns, by rifles, and by creeping poisonous gases. With a courage rarely matched, this brigade and its comrades broke through the entire line, captured the dreaded tunnel, and freed Bellicourt and the neighboring country from German rule. They pushed before them two German divisions, and captured 1,481 officers and men. So great was this feat that General Pershing, the